



HAND HYGIENE COMPLIANCE AMONG HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN GHANA’S HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS: IMPLICATIONS FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL. isqua2019.09d0248

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Introduction:

- The transfer of micro-organisms by the hands of health care workers (HCWs) has been identified as a major factor in the transmission of hospital-acquired infections.
- Hand hygiene (HH) is universally acknowledged to be the single most important measure to prevent healthcare-associated infection.
- Previous studies focused on HH moments, with less emphasis on social hand washing (SHW)

Objectives:

The main objective of this study was to assess HH compliance in selected primary hospitals in Ghana.

The specific objectives were:

- to assess the availability of HH material and alcohol job aids
- to observe HH moments
- to observe steps in SHW

Methods:

- A cross-sectional health facility-based observational study was undertaken by the Ghana Health Service on HH compliance in five regions of Ghana: Western Region, Central Region, Greater Accra Region, Volta Region, Northern Region.
- A total of 546 HCWs including doctors, nurses, midwives and laboratory personnel from 106 health facilities participated in the study.
- The health facilities were assessed for availability of HH materials, HH moments, and SHW, among others.

Results:

- The results show that mean availability of HH material and alcohol job aids was 75% and 71% respectively. This was described as moderately high, but less desirable.
- Mean compliance with HH moments was 51%, which was also described as moderately high, but less desirable.
- It was observed that, generally, HH was performed after procedures than before.
- However, the mean compliance with steps in SHW was 86%, which was described as high and desirable.

Fig. 1: mean availability of SHW materials

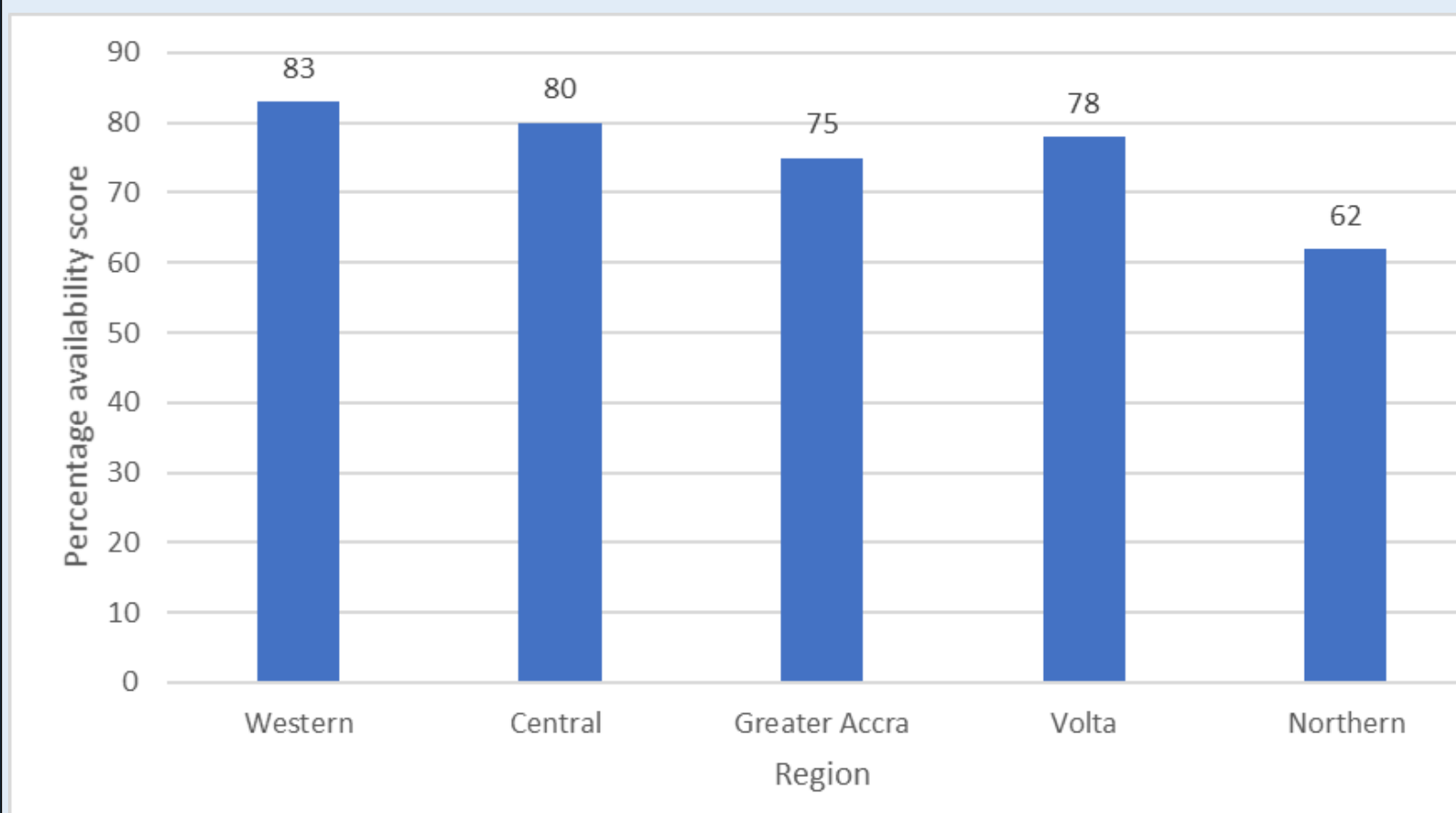


Fig. 2 Mean availability of alcohol hand rub job aids

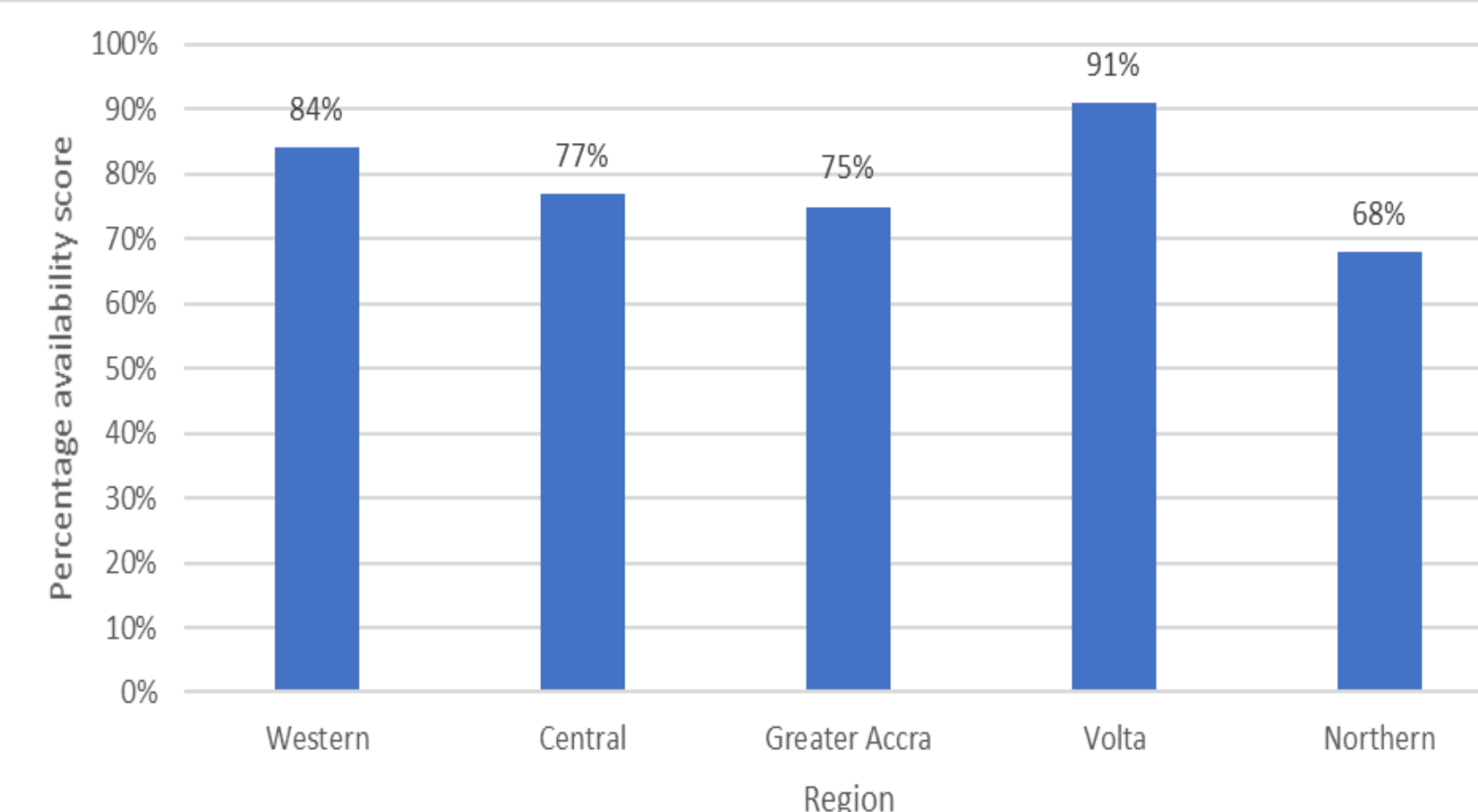
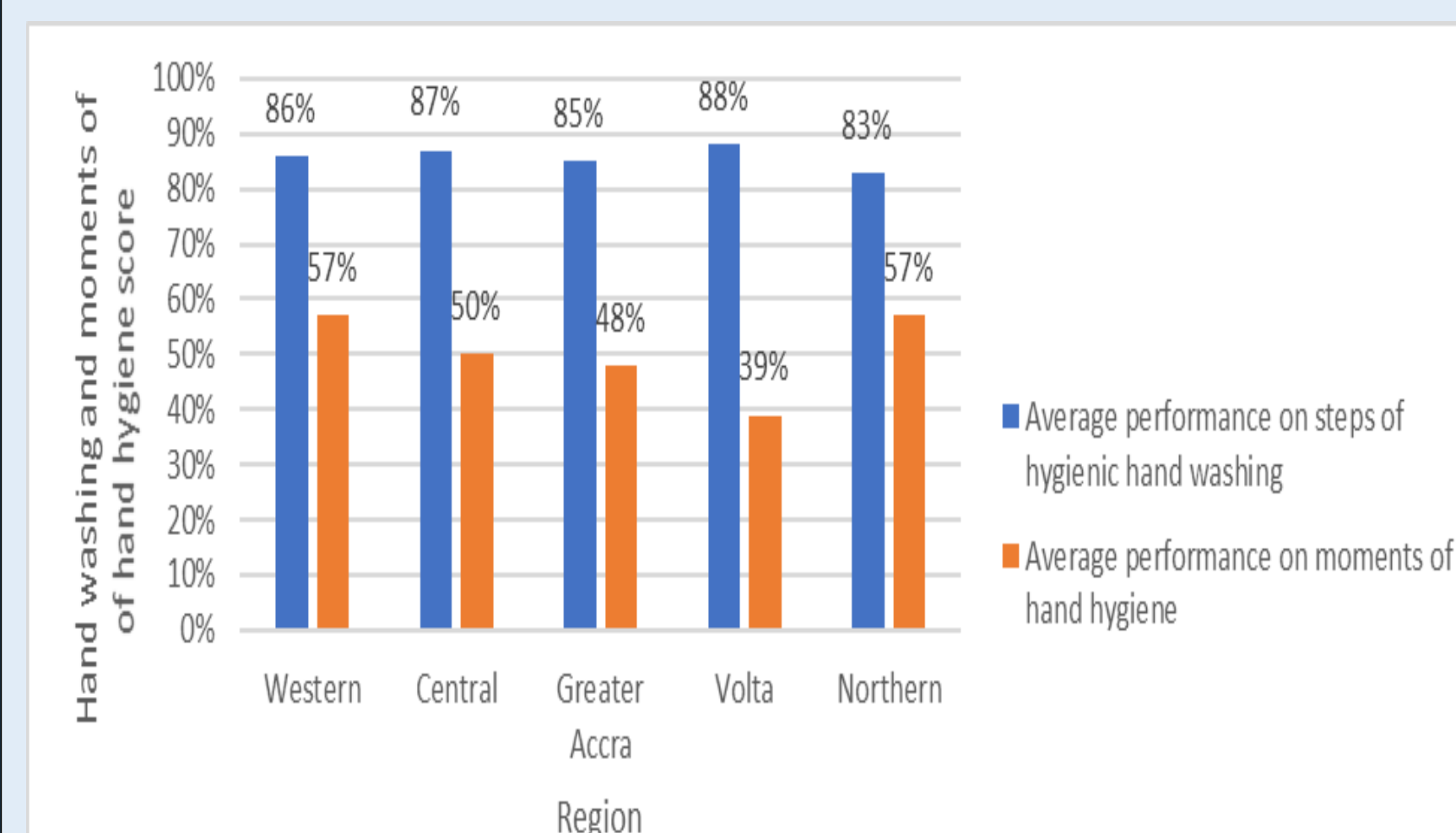


Fig. 3: HH Moments Vs. SHW



Discussion/Conclusions:

- The tendency to perform HH after procedures is consistent with literature (Erasmus et al., 2010).
- The low HH moments was surprising, considering that the facilities studied received training the previous six months.
- The high score (86%) on SHW suggests that the low HH moments cannot be attributed to lack of skills or incompetence.
- Walker et al. (2014) proposed that continuous monitoring by salient observers and immediate feedback are critical to the success of HH programs.
- Further study is however required in Ghana to establish reasons for the relatively low performance in HH moments.
- Efforts must be made to translate the competence of staff in SHW into willingness to comply with HH moments.

Acknowledgements:

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References:

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Walker JL, Sistrunk WW, Higginbotham MA, et al. Hospital hand hygiene compliance improves with increased monitoring and immediate feedback. *American journal of infection control* 2014;42(10):1074-78.